

Lev Tolstoy

#1-501

THE LION AND THE DOG





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Wild animals were on show in London. To see them people had to pay money, or bring dogs and cats which were thrown to the wild animals to eat.

Wanting to see the wild animals, a man caught a little dog in the street and brought it to the menagerie. He was admitted, of course, while the little dog was thrown into the lion's cage to be eaten.

The little dog put its tail between its legs and hid in a corner of the cage, but the lion came over to smell it.

Then the little dog rolled over on its back with its paws in the air and began to wag its tail.

The lion touched it with his paw and turned it over.

The little dog sprang up and sat back on its hind legs.

The lion looked at the little animal, turned his head from side to side, but did not touch it any more.

When his master threw him some meat, the lion tore off a piece, and left it for the little dog.

When the lion lay down to sleep in the evening the little dog lay down beside him, putting its head on his paw.

The dog and the lion lived together in the same cage from that time. The lion never harmed the little dog, but ate his food, slept with the dog and even played with it.

One day a gentleman came to the menagerie and recognised his little dog; he told the menagerie owner that the dog was his and that he wanted







it back. The owner was ready to give it to him, of course; but as soon as they called the little dog wanting to take it from the cage the lion roared, his mane standing straight up.

The little dog and the lion lived in the cage for a whole year.

After a year the little dog fell ill and died. The lion stopped eating, and kept smelling and licking the little dead dog, touching it with his paw.



When he knew it was dead, he sprang up suddenly, his mane rising, thrashed his sides with his tail, threw himself against the wall, and began to bite the bars and the floor.

He kept throwing himself about the cage all day, roaring, and then lay down beside the little dead dog. The owner wanted to take the dead dog away, but the lion would let no one come near.

Thinking the lion would forget his grief if he had another dog, the owner put a second one in the cage, this one alive. But the lion tore it to pieces at once. Then he put his paws round his little dead friend and lay without stirring for five days.

On the sixth day he was dead.







THE EAGLE

An eagle built a nest beside a high road far from the sea and hatched several young.

One day the eagle came flying back to her nest with a large fish in her claws just when several people were working beside her tree. When they saw the fish, the people surrounded the tree, shouting and throwing stones at the eagle.

When she dropped her fish, they picked it up and went away.



The eagle perched on the edge of her nest, and her eaglets raised their heads, crying for food.

But the eagle was tired and could not fly back to the sea. Instead, she sank into her nest, covered her eaglets with her wings, petted them,



smoothing their tiny feathers, as though begging them to wait a little while. But the more she petted them, the louder they peeped.

She fluttered away from them at last, and perched on a higher branch. But the eaglets kept shrilling even more pitifully.

Thereupon the eagle gave a great cry, spread her wings, and flew heavily away towards the sea.

She returned late in the evening, flying slowly and low, but carrying another large fish in her claws.

Reaching her tree, she looked this time to see if there were any people. Then she folded her wings quickly and perched on the edge of the nest.

The eaglets put up their open beaks, and their mother tore the fish apart, feeding her young.





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